

**SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR  
PROGRAMMING SYNCHRONIZATION CRITERIA IN A  
MULTIDIMENSIONAL DIGITAL FRAME STRUCTURE**

5                                   **ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

A system and method have been provided for programming synchronization features of a multidimensional digital frame structure. Such a frame structure acts as a digital wrapper and includes overhead, payload, and forward error correction (FEC) sections. Words in the  
10   overhead section are used to synchronize the frame structure. The described invention permits the number of frames, with recognizable frame synchronization bytes (FSBs), required for synchronization to be made programmable, so that the system and method are flexible for changes in communication protocols. This flexibility also impacts the  
15   number, value, location, bandwidth, and the bit error rate (BER) of the located FSBs.